

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 NEA-09 EUR-12

OPR-02 /088 W

----- 103699

O 100725Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3418

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 02588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR 2

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON
10 MARCH BEING REPEATED TO YOU.

QUOTE: NHA TRANG 143

REF: NHA TRANG 0142

1. ON MARCH 8TH, 9TH, AND THE MORNING OF THE 10TH, HEAVY
FIGHTING CONTINUED IN BINH DINH, PLEIKU AND KHANH HOA, THE
PROVINCES WHERE THE UPSURGE IN COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTION BEGAN ON
MARCH 4; QL-19 BETWEEN QUI NHON AND PLEIKU, QL-21 BETWEEN NINH
HOA AND BAN ME THUOT, AND QL-14 BETWEEN PLEIKU AND BAN ME THUOT
REMAIN CLOSED. IN ADDITION, THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED GROUND
ATTACKS AGAINST THUAN MAN DISTRICT, PHU BON, DUC LAP DISTRICT,
QUANG DUC, AND BAN ME THUOT CITY, DARLAC. AS OF 101000 HRS,
BOTH THUAN MAN AND DUC LAP HAD FALLEN TO THE COMMUNISTS, AND
BAN ME THUOT WAS 50 PERCENT OCCUPIED BY THE COMMUNISTS. DETAILS
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ON THE SITUATION IN QUANG DUC AND PHU BON FOLLOW (INFORMATION

ON BAN ME THUOT HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY -
SEE REFTEL). INFORMATION ON THE BATTLES ON LOCS WILL BE REPORTED
SEPARATELY.

2. THE ATTACK ON DUC LAP BEGAN AT 090300 HRS, WHEN THE COMMUNISTS
MORTARED AND LAUNCHED A SAPPER ATTACK AT THE SUBSECTOR HQS. AT
090720 THE ATTACK ON THE SUBSECTOR HQS BEGAN IN EARNEST: THE
COMMUNIST LAUNCHED AN EXTREMELY HEAVY MORTAR ATTACK AGAINST THE
SUBSECTOR HQS AND ALSO INITIATED GROUND ATTACKS AT RF AND 53RD REGT
POSITIONS NEAR THE CITY. AS OF 100930 HRS, THE COMMUNISTS HAD
OVERRUN THE SUBSECTOR. DOCUMENTS SEIZED BY THE GVN INDICATE THAT
THE COMMUNIST UNITS WHICH TOOK DUC LAP INCLUDE ELEMENTS OF THE
31ST BN OF THE 10TH NVA DIV. ALSO, AT 090300 HRS, THE COMMUNISTS
FIRED FOUR 82 MM MORTARS AT KIEN DUC SUB-SECTOR HQS MANNED BY THE
82ND RANGER BN, AND FOLLOWED WITH A SAPPER ATTACK. REPORTEDLY
THESE ATTACKS CAUSED NO DAMAGE, BUT THE GVN TOOK 1 KIA AND 1 WIA.

3. AT 080700 HRS THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED A COMBINED MORTAR
AND GROUND ATTACK AT THUAN MAN (BOUN BLECK) SUB-SECTOR HQS, WHICH
WAS DEFENDED BY THE 257TH RF BN, THE 899TH, 252ND AND 505TH RF COS.,
THE 23RD RECON CO, AND SEVERAL PF PLTS. AT 081830 HRS, THE
DEFENDING FORCES WITHDREW TO BUON HOI RESETTLEMENT AREA 10 KMS
NE OF THUAN MAN. REPORTEDLY, SOME 16 HAMLETS IN THE AREA HAVE
BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE COMMUNISTS; REFUGEES FROM THESE HAMLETS
HAVE FLED TO CHEO REO. SPEAR
UNQUOTE
LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON02588
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-0105
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750366/aaaachjj.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NHA TRANG 0142
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR 2 FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, MOPS, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006